

Message Text

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12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJ: CANADA REQUESTS PROHIBITION OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION
OF CONTINENTAL SHELF IN GULF OF MAIN

1. IN A NOTE DATED SEPT 19, 1974, AND DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY SEPT 20, 1974, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: (A) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER USG GRANTING PERMITS FOR PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT MARINE SEISMIC EXPLORATION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF MAIN; (B) CLAIMED AREA INCLUDES PART OF CANADIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF; AND (C) REQUESTED USG PROHIBIT THIS EXPLORATION PENDING CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AND WISHES TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS GRANTED A PERMIT TO A GROUP OF COMPANIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT MARINE SEISMIC EXPLORATION RELATING TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF MAIN, IN PARTICULAR, IN THAT AREA KNOWN AS GEORGES BANK. THE PERMIT REFERRED TO IS UNDERSTOOD TO COVER AN AREA BEYOND THE EQUIDISTANCE LINE AND CONSEQUENTLY EXTENDS INTO AN AREA OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH

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IS REGARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AS BEING WITHIN

CANADIAN JURISDICTION.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WISHES TO REITERATE THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THAT THE EQUIDISTANCE LINE CONSTITUTES THE PROPER BASIS FOR THE DEMARCATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY IN THE GEORGES BANK AREA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6(2) OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (GENEVA 1958). AS STATED DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND WHICH HAVE YET TO BE CONCLUDED.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THEREFORE WISHES TO EXPRESS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES ITS CONCERN WITH REGARD TO GRANTING A PERMIT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH HAVE NO BASIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE GRATEFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, TOOK APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PROHIBIT EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO THIS PERMIT ON THE CANADIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GEORGES BANK AREA." (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING) END TEXT.
PORTER

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